

Cirencester Parking Demand Project Board

Meeting notes 11 November 2016

Please note these notes are available to the public except any sections shown in yellow which must remain confidential.

Attendees: Councillors: Mark Harris, (Chairman), Chris Hancock and Jenny Forde, Officers: Christine Gore, Claire Locke, Christine Cushway, Philippa Lowe and Marie Whiteman (note taker)

1. Apologies: Cllrs: Nicholas Parsons and Mark MacKenzie-Charrington, Bhavna Patel and Bob McNally

2. Notes of last meeting

The notes of the meeting held on 10th October were approved.

Matters arising from the notes:

A press release on Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) has been released.

3. Discussion on Waterloo proposals – identifying priorities

Claire updated the meeting on the on-going work that Atkins are doing, we will be able to make this public once the final version of the data on future capacity requirements has been completed.

The Waterloo is the preferred site for decked parking. Cllr. Jenny Forde said we want this to be a lasting legacy and something we can be proud of.

Pre app has been submitted, when advice has been received from the planners, stakeholders can be consulted. It is hoped these will take place in the second week of January.

Need to be clear on what our priorities are. In order to do this we need to be clear on how many spaces are required in Cirencester. The size of the spaces and customer experience is important but will impact on the number of spaces that can be provided. The Board agreed it did not want to maximise spaces to the detriment of the environment. It was felt that four decks would be appropriate. The issue of priorities and design can be refined once we have pre-app advice and can be discussed with Stakeholders. It will also be greatly influenced by the data that Atkins are producing.

We will look at decked parking in other towns and the external design will be guided by Planning, whilst the Parking Board will have a greater influence over the internal configuration and provision of spaces.

4. Initial summary of funding from Atkins – future capacity requirements

Claire Locke and Christine Cushway met with Atkins this week. They are looking at capacity and demand on all the car parks in Cirencester. They should have completed the work by the 12th December. Points raised were:

- We need to consider building going on in Swindon and other outlying towns
- Need to look at the best and worst scenarios in terms of future demand
- All sites should be future proofed
- Need to apply a % uplift for worst case scenarios and also the operation of the car park which requires 5% capacity to allow turnover.
- Need to look long term i.e. beyond the duration of the Local Plan 2031
- Uses for different car parks i.e. long term stay for business and short stay for visitors and shoppers will be shaped by Parking Distribution Strategy. Initial decisions to allocate car parks for long or short stay can be changed if it is found that the balance is not right. This would require changes to the Parking Orders.
- Motorists have come to expect that they can park in central Cirencester however to better manage provision and provide central parking for short stay users there will need to be communications to inform the public that they may have to have a ten minute walk to a car park if they are staying all day.

Action: Ask Forward Planning to pass any work the planners may have done on Historic growth to Atkins. Philippa

5. Retail study – brief update

After several points were raised it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with Cirencester Town Council to discuss a Town Strategy. Attendees would be Cllr. Harris, and Andrew Tubb from Town Council. Claire Locke, Christine Cushway and Philippa Lowe from CDC.

6. Potential S.106 funding for car park development

Philippa told the meeting that the Planners are currently negotiating S.106 money from the proposed Chesterton Development and would require good evidence that the new development would have an impact on parking in Cirencester. S.106 money cannot be requested unless a timeframe for delivery and funding is in place.

The planning application for the Chesterton development will probably go to the February Planning meeting.

- Text has been deleted to protect confidential information relating to specific negotiations with site owners, site purchase and lease negotiations and financial data which cannot yet be made public.

7. Opportunities for shared bus services with the Royal Agricultural University

Cllr. Harris met with the RAU last week following a previous meeting where it transpired they run a minibus service from the RAU into town and back via the Chesterton estate.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish whether or not this could be opened up to the public and, possibly, if CDC could support the enhancement of the service or look at ways of working together and understanding their model. It costs them about £50-60K a year to run the service via a company in Chedworth. The University asked CDC to use Simon King as their contact.

Cllr. Harris will contact the bus company which is from Chedworth to see if it's possible to get something up and running before Christmas. This would require funding and it was suggested the income during the Free after 3 pm initiative could be used.

Action: Claire to prepare decision report on Christmas Shuttle bus service.

8. Other updates

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Cllr. Harris also spoke to Cirencester College about a park and stride, there is a possibility of 50 spaces available at the College.

Cllr. Harris asked if it was possible to have free parking on the Sundays before Christmas. The only car park that charges is the Brewery car park.

Action: Claire Locke will check with Nigel Adams to establish how a decision on this can be taken.

Short Term fixes – Philippa Lowe suggested amendments to the website to make it more user friendly. Bob to work with IT. National Express Coach.

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The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 6 December at 9:15, Ermin Room.